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City of Barrie

Minutes - Final

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 10, 2021 | **4:00 PM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on September 14, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, C. Kenwell at 4:02 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 7 - Chairman C. Kenwell
Councillor R. Thomson
M. Francis
C. Moran
H. Morgan
L. Pope
D. Taylor

STAFF:
Committee Support Clerk, T. Maynard
Disability Management and Accessibility Specialist, C. Dillon
Manager of Business Performance and Environmental Sustainability, S. Brunet
Manager of Corporate Facilities, G. Diamantopoulous
Manager of Recreation and Culture Facilities, K. Datema
Supervisor of Growth and Development, A. Sajecki
Waste Reduction Coordinator, K. Siren.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

DRAFT TWO OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE

Tomasz Wierzba, Planner provided an update regarding the Draft Two Official Plan and proposed policies related to accessibility in the plan. He provided an overview of the Draft Official Plan and Urban Design Guidelines. Mr. Wierzba discussed next steps and timelines associated with the plan. Mr. Wierzba explained that population in Barrie is expected to grow to 298,000 by the year 2051 and that planning needs to begin now for the anticipated growth, jobs and ensuring people can move around the City.

Mr. Wierzba anticipates that a Draft Three of the Official Plan will be available in the fall 2021 for public consultation.

Anna Sajecki, Supervisor of Growth Management explained that the Urban Design Guidelines are designed to work in conjunction with the Official Plan and that staff in Development Services are currently in the process of updating these guidelines. Ms. Sajecki mentioned that she anticipates that a Draft Two of the Urban Design Guidelines will be available for consultation in the summer of 2021. Ms. Sajecki advised that information related to the Draft Official Plan and Urban Design Guidelines can be located at buildingbarrie.ca. Ms. Sajecki provided a description of inclusiveness zoning and the plans to incorporate policies into the Official Plan.

A Committee member asked a question of City staff related to policies for affordable housing, supportive housing and accessible public washrooms and received responses.

The Committee discussed reviewing the Draft Two of the Official Plan and providing feedback to staff in Development Services Department.

BARRIE TRANSIT UPDATE

The Barrie Transit Update was deferred to a future meeting.

THE PROPOSED BAN OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS AS IT RELATES TO ACCESSIBILITY

Katherine Siren, Waste Reduction Coordinator provided an update regarding the proposed ban of single use plastics program. Ms. Siren advised that Council directed staff to develop a program to encourage local businesses to discontinue the use of single use plastic as well as implement a voluntary ban of single use plastics at City facilities and City special events.

Ms. Siren explained that a pilot program will focus on three types of single use plastics which include stir sticks, straws and cutlery. She mentioned that the first action of the plan will be to implement the pilot program at select city facilities but locations have not been determined. Ms. Siren described that the single use plastics pilot program will consist of an ask first policy which means that selected single use plastics items will not be provided unless they are requested by the purchaser. Ms. Siren explained that the length of the pilot program has not been determined and the program would allow staff to identify some of the challenges and determine the effectiveness of the policy prior to be expanded to other City facilities.

She described that the second action of the plan would be a pledge program for businesses in the Community to commit enacting the same type of ask first policy similar to the City and those businesses would be recognized for reducing waste.

Ms. Siren advised that the policy is not a complete ban on single use plastics. She explained that City is focusing on a circular economy in terms of waste management which means changing peoples behaviors to reduce the amount of waste that is generated in the municipality.

Cheryl Dillon, Diversity Management and Accessibility Specialist advised that she received a concern from the member of public regarding the ban on single use plastics because of a media story. Ms. Dillon explained that the member of public is a person living with a disability and based on their disability they use single use plastic straws because they are unable to use their hands. She mentioned that the member of the public was concerned that if there is a complete ban on single use plastics, that this would have an impact on their independence.

Katherine Siren explained that the pilot program for single use plastics and communications related to the plan are still being finalized.

Sandra Brunet, Manager of Business Performance and Environmental Sustainability explained that part of the rollout will be to communicate with vendors concerning the pilot program regarding single-use plastics and to ensure whether or not the purchaser has a disability or not, plastic items may be obtained if requested by the public.

The Members of Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Siren and Ms. Brunet and received responses.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

CITY OF BARRIE PUBLIC WASHROOMS

1. That staff in Corporate Facilities and Recreation Services Departments investigate the feasibility of an Accessibility Washroom Strategy for all City of Barrie Public Facilities.

2. That staff report back on the current conditions as well as costing for future accessible renovations and report back to the Accessibility Advisory Committee

This matter was recommended to Finance and Corporate Services Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 9/14/2021.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

CHAIRMAN